

**INFORMATION PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD,
AND RECORDING MEDIUM**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application claims priority from Japanese Application No. P2000-256253 filed on August 25, 2000, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to an information processing device and method, and a recording medium, and particularly to an information processing device and method and a recording medium which are suitably applied to a device for providing users with copy-protected data.

[0003] Recently, digital broadcasts for distributing video data and audio data as digital data have become popular. A reception device for receiving digital broadcasts is equipped with plural output terminals so that it can connect to various devices. For example, it is equipped with a digital terminal for outputting received digital data to another device, a terminal to which an IEEE1394 cable is connected, a terminal to which an optical cable is connected, etc., and also it is equipped with an analog terminal for outputting received data to an analog-only supporting device.

[0004] Three types of digital data are distributed, such as video data and audio data for television receivers, audio data for radio receivers and programs for personal computers or game machines.

[0005] Even when the process of temporarily storing these digital data distributed by the digital broadcast in a recording medium and copying the data into another recording medium is repeated at plural times, the image quality and the sound quality as the digital data are not deteriorated, and thus plural copies can be created. Such a situation is

on a program which a user desires to watch and listen to; analyzing means for analyzing the restriction if it is judged by the judging means that the restriction on recording is imposed on the program; and display control means for controlling a display on a screen to make the user recognize a processing result of the analyzing means.

[0012] An information processing method according to the present invention is characterized by comprising: a judging step for judging whether restriction on recording is imposed on a program which a user desires to watch and listen to; an analyzing step for analyzing the restriction if it is judged in the processing of the judging step that the restriction on recording is imposed on the program; and a display control step for controlling a display on a screen to make the user recognize an analysis processing result of the analyzing step.

[0013] A program of a recording medium according to the present invention is characterized by including: a judging step for judging whether restriction on recording is imposed on a program which a user desires to watch and listen to; an analyzing step for analyzing the restriction if it is judged in the processing of the judging step that the restriction on recording is imposed on the program; and a display control step for controlling a display on a screen to make the user recognize an analysis processing result of the analyzing step.

[0014] In the information processing device, the information processing method and the recording medium according to the present invention, when it is judged that restriction on recording is imposed on the program which the user wants to watch/listen to, the restriction is analyzed, and in a case where the analysis result indicates that analog recording is released by paying an additional fee, a case where the analysis result indicates that analog recording is allowed, but digital recording is not allowed, or a case where neither analog recording nor digital recording is allowed, a

display on a screen to make the user recognize the analysis result is controlled in accordance with the respective cases. Accordingly, the information on the restriction on the recording can be easily supplied to the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [0015] Fig. 1 is a diagram showing copy protect;
- [0016] Fig. 2 is a diagram showing copy protect;
- [0017] Fig. 3 is a diagram showing copy protect;
- [0018] Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an embodiment of a receiver to which the present invention is applied;
- [0019] Fig. 5 is a flowchart showing the operation of the receiver;
- [0020] Fig. 6 is a flowchart subsequent to the flowchart of Fig. 5;
- [0021] Fig. 7 is a flowchart subsequent to the flowchart of Fig. 6;
- [0022] Fig. 8 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on a television receiver;
- [0023] Fig. 9 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;
- [0024] Fig. 10 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;
- [0025] Fig. 11 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;
- [0026] Fig. 12 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;
- [0027] Fig. 13 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;
- [0028] Fig. 14 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;
- [0029] Fig. 15 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;
- [0030] Fig. 16 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;

[0031] Fig. 17 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver;

[0032] Fig. 18 is a diagram showing a display example displayed on the television receiver; and

[0033] Fig. 19 is a diagram showing a recording medium.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0034] Preferred embodiments according to the present invention will be described hereunder with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0035] Fig. 4 is a diagram showing the construction of an embodiment of a receiver to which the present invention is applied. A receiver 10 is STB (Set Top Box), IRD (Integrated Receiver Decoder) or the like. Digital data received from an antenna 30 are input to a tuner 11 of the receiver 10. The tuner 11 extracts data on a program indicated by a user and outputs the data to a descrambler 12.

[0036] When input data are scrambled and when the scramble is allowed to be descrambled (for example, a regular subscription is taken out, and thus a descramble key is kept), the descrambler 12 descrambles the scramble and outputs the data to a stream processor 13. The stream processor 13 outputs video data of the input data to a video encoder 14, and also outputs audio data of the input data to an audio decoder 15. When the video data are encoded data, the stream processor 13 subjects the input video data to the decode processing corresponding to the encode system, further generates OSD (On Screen Display) data if occasion demands, superposes the OSD data on the decoded video data and then outputs the data thus obtained.

[0037] When the video encoder 14 outputs input video data to a television receiver 50, the video encoder 14 subjects the encode processing meeting the television receiver 50, for example, the encode processing based on the NTSC (National Television System Committee) system to the input video data,

and then outputs the data to the television receiver 50. The video data processed by the stream processor 13 are also output to a component 51 treating digital data.

[0038] The audio decoder 15 subjects the input audio data to the decode processing corresponding to the encode system of the audio data. The audio data which have been subjected to the decode processing by the audio decoder 15 are output to an interface 16. The interface 16 is connected to IEEE1394 cable 52, for example, and outputs the audio data from the audio decoder 15 to a device connected to the IEEE1394 cable 52.

[0039] The audio data output from the audio decoder 15 are also output to other devices through an optical cable 53. Further, the audio data output from the audio decoder 15 are converted to analog data by a D/A (Digital/Analog) converter 17, and output to a speaker 54.

[0040] The tuner 11 extracts the data of a program indicated by the user. The user tunes a desired program by using a remote controller 32 or switch 33, and outputs an instruction. The switch 33 is provided on the side surface of the receiver 10, and it is designed to output substantially the same instruction as the remote controller 32. The remote controller 32 receives/transmits data from/to the receiver 10 by infrared rays, for example.

[0041] The data corresponding to an instruction which the user makes by using the remote controller 32 are received by a photodetector 18 of the receiver 10. The data received by the photodetector 18 or the data corresponding to the instruction based on the switch 33 are output to a display controller 19. The display controller 19 outputs the data from the photodetector 18 or the data from the switch 33 to a controller 20 if occasion demands, and also performs the display control of a display portion 21 according to the input data.

subscription of the program (channel). Accordingly, when the processing goes from step S2 to S4, a message like "You cannot watch/listen to this program on the basis of the subscription condition" or the like is displayed.

[0048] If it is judged in step S3 that the IC card 31 cannot be accessed, there may be considered such a case that the IC card 31 is not set in the card I/F 22 or a different IC card 31 is set. If it is judged that the IC card 31 is not set in the card I/F 22, a message like "Please insert card" or the like is displayed in step S4. If it is judged that a different IC card 31 is set in the card I/F 22, a message like "Access to card is not established" or the like is displayed in step S4.

[0049] When such a message as described above is displayed, the user may open the lid of the card I/F 22 in order to set the IC card 31. When the lid of the card I/F 22 is opened, the message displayed on the screen of the television receiver 50 is switched to a message like "Please close the lid" or the like. When the display of the message in step S4 is finished, the processing returns to step S1 to repeat the processing of the step 1 and the subsequent steps for a new tuning operation.

[0050] On the other hand, if it is judged in step S3 that the IC card 31 can be accessed, the processing goes to step S5 to judge whether a selected program has a restriction on the age to watch/listen to. If it is judged that the program has the age restriction, in step S6 the display is switched to an input frame for a code number in step S6, and it is set to a code-number input standby state.

[0051] If a code number is accurately input in step S6, the processing goes to step S7. If in step S6 the code number is not accurately input, the processing does not go to the step S7, and no subsequent processing is carried out.

[0052] On the other hand, if it is judged in step S5 that no age restriction is imposed, the processing of step S6 is skipped, and the processing goes to step S7. It is judged in step S7 whether the selected program is a program to be purchased or not. The program for which it is judged that it is unnecessary to purchase the program is a charge-free broadcast program or a program for which it is judged that the subscription has taken out in advance.

[0053] If it is judged in step S7 that the program selected by the user is a program which is not needed to be purchased, in other words, it can be watched/listened to, so that the tuning processing is finished and the screen of the television receiver 50 is switched to the display of the program selected. On the other hand, if it is judged in step S7 that the program selected by the user is a program which is needed to be purchased, the processing goes to step S8 (Fig. 6).

[0054] If it is judged in step S8 whether the program selected by the user is over a purchase term. For example, in such a case that the program selected by the user is a past program that has already passed over the broadcast time, it is judged that the purchase time has passed. If it is judged in step S8 that the purchase time for the program has passed, the processing goes to step S9.

[0055] In step S9, for example, a message to make the user recognize that the purchase is impossible as shown in Fig. 8 is displayed on the screen of the television receiver 50. When such a message is displayed for a predetermined time, or by a predetermined user's operation, the screen is switched to a channel at which the user watched/listened to before the start of the tuning processing.

[0056] On the other hand, if it is judged in step S8 that the purchase time has not passed, the processing goes to step S10 in which information on the program selected by the user, for example, a program title, a start time, an end time, a

charge amount, or the content of the program is displayed on the screen of the television receiver 50. In addition to the above display, it is judged in step S11 whether the program selected by the user has a digital copy control descriptor or not. An example of the digital copy control descriptor is shown below.

```
digital_copy_control_descriptor () {
    descriptor_tag 8    uimbsf
    descriptor_length 8    uimbsf
    digital_recording_control_data 2    bslbf
    maximum_bit_rate_flag 1    bslbf
    component_control_flag 1    bslbf
    copy_control_type 2    bslbf
        if(copy_control_type==0||copy_control_type==11)){
            APS_control_data 2    bslbf
        }else{
            reserved_future_use 2    bslbf
        }
        if(maximum_bit_rate_flag == 1) {
            maximum_bit_rate 8    uimbsf
        }
        if(component_control_flag == 1){
            component_control_length 8    uimbsf
            for(j=0; j<N; J++){
                component_tag 8    uimbsf
                digital_recording_control_data 2    bslbf
                maximum_bitrate_flag 1    bslbf
                reserved_future_use 1    bslbf
            }
        }
    copy_control_type 2    bslbf
        if(copy_control_type==01||copy_control_type==11){
            APS_control_data 2    bslbf
        }else{
            reserved_future_use 2    bslbf
        }
    }
```

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        if(maximum_bitrate_flag==1){
            maximum_bitrate      8      uimsbf
        }
    }
}

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[0057] The processing of the step S12 and the subsequent steps is carried out according to the content described in such a descriptor. It is judged in step S12 whether the copy control type is equal to 01 or not. If the copy control type is equal to 01, some restriction exists in the copy as is apparent from Fig. 1 to Fig. 3. If it is judged in step S12 that the copy control type is not equal to 01, the processing goes to step S13.

[0058] It is judged in step S13 whether a service type is television, in other words, whether video data and audio data are supplied. In Figs. 1 to 3, when a digital TV service shown in Fig. 1 is provided as a content type, it corresponds to the judgment that the service type is the television in step S13. When the processing goes to step S13, this is the case where the copy control type is judged to be equal to 11, 10 or 00.

[0059] As is apparent from Fig. 1, when the copy control type is equal to 11, 10 or 00 for data to be supplied to the television receiver, output impossibility is set for all the data. On the other hand, as is apparent from Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, in a case where the content type is a digital audio service (a service to be supplied to a radio or the like) or a data service (a service to be supplied to a personal computer or the like), restriction is imposed on the copy when the copy control type is equal to 11, and the output is impossible when the copy control type is equal to 10, 00, that is, this case is different from the case where the data are supplied to the television receiver.

[0060] Therefore, it is judged in step S13 whether the service type is the television or not, and it is judged in step S14 whether the copy control type is equal to 11. If it is judged in step S13 that the service type is the television, or it is judged in step S14 that the copy control type is not equal to 11, the processing goes to step S15. In step S15, it is judged whether the receiver 10 is installed in the television receiver 50 (that is, the built-in type).

[0061] Here, in Figs. 1 to 3, the output impossibility shows that it is impossible to output the data received by the receiver 10 to another device which is externally connected to the receiver 10 through a cable or the like. Accordingly, in the case of the built-in type, the data received can be processed in the device in which the receiver 10 is installed.

[0062] Further, it is judged in step S13 that the service type is not the television, and it is judged in step S14 that the control type is not equal to 11, the processing goes to step S15 to judge whether it is the television receiver 50 in which the receiver 10 is installed. The above processing procedure is carried out because only sounds can be supplied from the television receiver 50 to a user even when the service type is not the television, for example when the service type is a radio.

[0063] If it is judged in step S15 that the receiver 10 is not a built-in receiver, in other words, if it is judged that the receiver 10 and the television receiver 50 are connected to each other with an external terminal through a cable or the like, the processing goes to step S16 in which a message to make the use recognize that the program is a program which the user cannot watch/listen to as shown in Fig. 9 is displayed on the screen of the television receiver 50.

[0064] When an "acknowledge" button is operated on the screen as shown in Fig. 9, the screen is switched to a normal display frame (for example, a display frame before tuning).

[0065] If it is judged in step S12 that the copy control type is equal to 01, or it is judged in step S14 that the control type is equal to 11, the processing goes to step S17. The case where the control type is equal to 01 and the case where the control type is equal to 11 show that some restriction is imposed on the copy.

[0066] It is judged in step S17 whether CGMS (digital recording control data) is equal to 00. As is apparent from Fig. 1 to Fig. 3, four flags of 00, 10, 01 and 11 are prepared for the digital recording control data (CGMS) every control type. When CGMS is equal to 00, it shows that copy is allowed.

[0067] If it is judged in step S17 that CGMS is not equal to 00, the processing goes to step S18 to judge CGMS is equal to 10. If CGMS is equal to 10, it shows that only one copy is allowed. If it is judged in step S18 whether CGMS is not equal to 10, the processing goes to step S19 to judge whether APS (Analog Protection System) is equal to 00.

[0068] If it is judged in step S19 that APS is not equal to 00, the processing goes to step S20. If it is judged that APS is equal to 00, the processing goes to step S21. In step S20, a message to make the user recognize that recording is not allowed irrespective of analog or digital recording as shown in Fig. 10 is displayed on the screen. The processing also goes to step S20 when it is judged in step S15 that the receiver is the television receiver 50 in which the receiver 10 is installed.

[0069] In step S21, a display frame as shown in Fig. 11 is displayed on the television receiver 50. When such a display frame is displayed, it shows that copy is allowed if it is analog. When the processing of step S20 or step S21 is finished, the processing goes to step S22, and in step S22 it is judged whether a "cancel" button in the display frame shown in Fig. 10 or Fig. 11 is operated. If it is judged in step S22

that the "cancel" button is operated, the tuning processing is finished.

[0070] If it is judged in step S22 that the "cancel" button is not operated, in other words, if a "only watching/listening" button is operated on the display frame shown in Fig. 10 displayed in step S20, or an "acknowledge" button is operated on the display frame shown as shown in Fig. 11 displayed in the step S21, the processing goes to step S26 (Fig. 7).

[0071] On the other hand, it is judged in step S18 that CGMS is equal to 10, the processing goes to step S23 to judge whether an additional fee is needed. If it is judged that CGMS is equal to 10, as is apparent from Fig. 1 to Fig. 3, copy is allowed. It is judged in step S23 whether an additional fee is needed to the copy (recording), particularly whether an additional fee is needed to analog copy. If it is judged in step S23 that no additional fee is needed, the processing goes to step S26. The processing also goes to step S26 if it is judged in step S17 that CGMS is equal to 00 (when it is judged that copy is free).

[0072] On the other hand, if it is judged in step S23 that the additional fee is needed, the processing goes to step S24 to make such a display as to make the user recognize that an additional fee is needed to recording as shown in Fig. 12 (in the example of Fig. 12, a yen mark (¥) is displayed on a "recording" button). As shown in Fig. 12, the additional fee for recording is displayed.

[0073] On the display frame as shown in Fig. 12, it is judged in step S25 whether the user operates the "cancel" button. If it is judged in step S25 that the "cancel" button is operated, the processing of the tuning is finished. If it is judged in step S25 whether the "cancel" button is not operated, in other words, if it is judged whether the "only

watching/listening" button or the "recording" button is operated, the processing goes to step S26.

[0074] It is judged in step S26 whether there is any pay ES (Elementary Stream). If it is judged in step S26 that there is a pay ES, the processing goes to step S27 to display a selection frame as shown in Fig 13 on the television receiver 50. In the display example shown in Fig. 13, it is apparent that four kinds of pictures and voices are distributed for a program A. For example, a standard screen size, and a wide vision size are provided as the picture types, and Japanese, English, etc. are provided as the voice types.

[0075] A yen mark showing that an additional fee is needed is displayed for the picture 2 and the voice 3 in the four kinds of pictures and voices. A selected ES is represented by a black dot and a non-selected ES is represented by an open circle.

[0076] A "purchase" button and a "purchase cancel" button are provided at the lower side of the screen. When selected ESs need additional fees, the total amount of the additional fees is displayed between these buttons. The user selects a desired ES by referring such a display frame, and operates the "purchase" or "purchase cancel" button.

[0077] It is judged in step S28 whether the "purchase cancel" button is operated or not. If it is judged that the "purchase cancel" button is operated, the tuning processing is finished. If it is judged that the "purchase cancel" button is not operated, in other words, if it is judged that the "purchase" button is operated, the processing goes to step S29 and an enter display frame as shown in Fig. 14 is displayed. The enter display frame is a display frame to make the user finally acknowledge whether the selected program should be actually purchased on the basis of the selected content.

[0078] It is judged in step S30 from the display frame shown in Fig. 14 whether the user operates the "cancel" button

or not. If it is judged that the "cancel" button is operated, the tuning processing is finished. On the other hand, if it is judged in step S30 that the "cancel" button is not operated, in the other words, if it is judged that the "purchase" button is operated, the processing goes to step S31 to judge whether the purchase time has passed or not.

[0079] It is also judged in step S8 (Fig. 6) whether the purchase time has passed. However, since there may be considered such a case that the purchase time has passed during execution of the processing of the step S8 and the subsequent steps, the processing of the step S31 is provided. If it is judged in step S31 that the purchase time of a program which the user decides to purchase has passed, the processing returns to step S9 (Fig. 6), and such a display frame as shown in Fig. 8 is displayed, and the tuning processing is finished.

[0080] On the other hand, if it is judged in step S31 whether the program which the user decides to purchase is within the purchase time, the processing goes to step S32 to judge whether descrambler can be performed. If it is judged in step S32 that the descrambler cannot be performed, this means that the descrambler cannot be performed due to some restriction, and thus a display to make the user recognize this fact is made in step S33. In step S33, such a display frame as shown in Fig. 15 or Fig. 16 is displayed on the television receiver 50.

[0081] In the display example shown in Fig. 15, the program which the user decides to purchase is a program having a restriction to a watching/listening district, and it is a display frame when the user lives at the restricted district. The display example of Fig. 16 is a display frame displayed when the watching/listening (purchasing) is not allowed under a subscription condition like a case where the program which the user decides to purchase belongs to a channel to which the

user does not subscribe, the program is a program which the user does not subscribe, or the like. In such a display frame is displayed, and the tuning processing is finished.

[0082] On the other hand, if it is judged in step S32 that the program which the user decides to purchase can be descrambled, the processing goes to step S34 to judge whether the program exceeds the upper limit of the payment based on a card. The card means a credit card with which the user made a contract to pay a fee in advance when the user watches/listens to pay broadcast or an IC card 31 (Fig. 4) in which an amount of money is written in advance, for example. It is judged in step S34 whether the program exceeds the upper limit of the payment of the card, and if it is judged that the program exceeds the upper limit of the payment, the processing goes to step S35.

[0083] In step S35, a message to make the user recognize that the program decided to be purchases cannot be purchased because it exceeds the upper limit of the user's payment as shown in Fig. 17 is displayed on the television receiver 50, and the tuning processing is finished. On the other hand, if it is judged in step S34 that the program does not exceed the upper limit of the payment, the processing goes to step S36, and a preview of the program decided to be purchased as shown in Fig. 18 is displayed for only a predetermined time (for example, 3 seconds). Further, a message indicating that the procedure for the purchase has been completed is also displayed.

[0084] The program desired by the user is selected as described above. As described above, the copy protect is stipulated in accordance with the service type and a device which is an output destination of received data. Therefore, according to the above processing, the user can easily purchase a desired program without suffering cumbersome complicated stipulations on the copy protect, and also such a

disadvantage that the user cannot make recording because of application of copy-protect and thus watch/listen to a program after the user purchases the program can be prevented.

[0085] In other words, with respect to the copy protect, the processing on the copy protect can be finished at the user side by carrying out only one operation on one displayed frame of the four display frames of Fig. 9 to Fig. 12, so that the purchase of programs can be easily carried out.

[0086] A series of processing as described above can be executed in the hardware style, however, it may be carried out in the software style. When the series of processing is executed in the software style, the program constituting the software is installed from a recording medium into a computer installed in a special-purpose hardware or a general personal computer which can perform various functions by installing various programs therein.

[0087] As shown in Fig. 19, this recording medium is constructed by not only a package medium comprising a magnetic disc 121 (containing a floppy disk), an optical disc 122 (containing CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory), DVD (Digital Versatile Disk)), a magneto-optical disc 123 (containing MD (Mini-Disk)), a semiconductor memory 124 or the like that has the program recorded therein and is distributed to supply the program to users separately from a computer, but also a hard disc containing ROM 102 or a storage portion 108 that has the program recorded therein and is supplied to users under the state that it is installed in a computer in advance.

[0088] In this specification, the step describing the program to be supplied through the medium contains not only the processing that is carried out in time series according to the described order, but also the processing that is not carried out in time series, but in parallel or individually.

[0089] In this specification, the system represents the overall device constructed by plural devices.

[0090] Although the invention herein has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the principles and applications of the present invention. It is therefore to be understood that numerous modifications may be made to the illustrative embodiments and that other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.